

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-piece solid golf ball comprising a core consisting of a center and an intermediate layer formed on the center, and at least one layer of a cover covering the core, wherein

the center has a central point hardness in Shore D hardness of 20 to 40 and a surface hardness in Shore D hardness of 32 to 53,

the intermediate layer has a thickness of 0.3 to 2.5 mm and a hardness in Shore D hardness of 50 to 75, the hardness of the intermediate layer is higher than a surface hardness in Shore D hardness of the center and a hardness in Shore D hardness of the outermost layer of the cover, and the flexural modulus of the intermediate layer is lower than that of the outermost layer of the cover, and

the intermediate layer is formed from a rubber composition comprising polybutadiene, co-crosslinking agent, organic peroxide and filler as essential components, and the co-crosslinking agent is a metal salt other than a zinc salt of  $\alpha, \beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid, and an amount of the organic peroxide in the rubber composition is not less than 4 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the polybutadiene.

2. (Original) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the intermediate layer has a specific gravity of smaller than 1.2 and a flexural modulus of not more than 200 MPa.

3. (Original) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the outermost layer of the cover has a hardness in Shore D hardness of lower than 62, a flexural modulus of not less than 130 MPa and a thickness of 0.3 to 2.5 mm.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the center has a central point hardness in Shore D hardness of 15 to 45 and a surface hardness in Shore D hardness of 30 to 55.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the intermediate layer has a thickness of 0.4 to 2.1 mm and a hardness in Shore D hardness of 55 to 72.

8. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the intermediate layer has a thickness of 0.5 to 1.8 mm and a hardness in Shore D hardness of 60 to 70.

9. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 2, wherein the intermediate layer has a specific gravity of lower than 1.18 and a flexural modulus of 50 to 180 MPa.

10. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 2, wherein the intermediate layer has a flexural modulus of 70 to 160 MPa.

11. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the hardness of the intermediate layer is higher than the hardness of the outermost layer of the cover in Shore D hardness of not more than 20.

12. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the hardness of the intermediate layer is higher than the hardness of the outermost layer of the cover in Shore D hardness of not more than 15.

13. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the hardness of the intermediate layer is higher than the hardness of the outermost layer of the cover in Shore D hardness of not more than 10.

14. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the outermost layer of the cover has a hardness in Shore D hardness of 45 to 62 and a flexural modulus of 150 to 300 MPa.

15. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the flexural modulus of the intermediate layer is lower than that of the outermost layer of the cover by a difference of 5 to 150 MPa.

16. (Previously Presented) The multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the flexural modulus of the intermediate layer is lower than that of the outermost layer of the cover by a difference of 10 to 120 MPa.